

What Is Claimed Is:
~~Claims~~

112/2

1. A method for manufacturing a sensing element, (in particular for determining the oxygen content in exhaust gases of internal combustion engines), a composite construction comprising at least one ceramic paste^{112/2} (green film) present in film form being sintered to yield the sensing element, and sharp edges of the sensing element being blunted to increase the thermal shock resistance of the sensing element, wherein^{N?} (the edges (36)) of the sensing element (10) are blunted before sintering.

2. The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein^{N?} (the edges) (36) are blunted by shaping.

3. The method as defined in Claim 2, wherein^{N?} (the edges) (36) are blunted by stamping.

4. The method as defined in one of the foregoing claims, wherein a profile (46) is introduced into a stamping apparatus (45) for pre-pressing a laminate composite construction of unsintered films of the sensing element (10).

5. The method as defined in Claim 4, wherein the profile (46) is attained by way of a profiling film (48) introduced into the stamping apparatus (45).

6. The method as defined in Claim 5, wherein the profiling film (48) is equipped with an anti-adhesion coating.

7. The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein^{NA} (the edges) (36) are blunted by way of a laser treatment.

8. The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein an excimer laser (44) with definable masking is used for the laser treatment.

9. The method as defined in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the laser treatment is performed on sectioned sensing elements (10) that are present as a composite construction of green films.

10. The method as defined in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the laser treatment for blunting the edges (36) is accomplished prior to sectioning from a wafer of sensing elements (10) that are present as a composite construction of green films.

11. The method as defined in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the laser treatment is used simultaneously to section from a wafer individual sensing elements (10) present as a composite construction of green films, and to blunt the edges (36).

12. The method as defined in one of the foregoing claims, wherein the chamfers (38) of the edges (36) possess a convex and/or concave and/or flat surface.